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COUNTRY USSR (Estonia)

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SUBJECT Town of Voru

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SOURCE

1. Voru [57°52'N and 27°01'E], a county seat, is located in southeast Estonia and is bounded on the southwest by Tamula Lake and on the northwest by the Vohandu River. The area to the northeast and east consists primarily of open meadows and swampland. Established in 1784, the city in 1937 had a population of approximately six thousand. The railroad line from Valga, Estonia, to Pskov, USSR, passed three kilometers south of the city, and just south of the railroad was the Headquarters of the Seventh Infantry Regiment of the Estonian Army.
2. I have located on a map [See Sketch #1 available at the CIA Map Library] the principal landmarks in Voru, the numbers below corresponding to those on the map:
 1. City Hall. Small wooden building, one-story high, containing about 20 rooms, including a small library.
 2. County Government Building. This was a large building, three-stories high, made of white stone. In a separate building was a garage and repair shop for trucks and other highway equipment.
 3. Voru Evangelical Lutheran Church, known as Katarina Church. Built in 1793 it is an excellent example of early classic style, including a tall tower with a cross on top.
 4. Orthodox Church, known as "Juri" (George) Church.
 5. City and County Hospital. A two-story wooden building, with a 100-120 bed capacity and staffed by four or five doctors.
 6. Former Estonian Bank. Small, one-story stone building. After 1936 it was used as a headquarters for the Home Guard.
- 25X1A 7. Voru Bank. One-story wooden building.

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8. Prefecture of Police. Two-story, wooden building.
9. Post Office. Large, two-story, stone building also housing telephone and telegraph office.
10. Gymnasium. Two-story, stone building, erected about 1934 or 1935. Girls attended classes in the morning and boys in the afternoon.
11. Home Guard Headquarters. Small, one-story, wooden building.
12. Kreutzwald Museum. Small wooden house, former home of famous Estonian poet.
13. Kreutzwald Memorial. Statue of the Estonian poet in the city park.
14. Slaughter House. One-story, stone building.
15. Voru Cooperative Bank. Large, one-story stone building which had cooperative store on first floor.
16. Army District Headquarters. Address: #11 Kreutzwald Street. Two-story stone building.
17. Stadium.
18. Officers Club for Estonian Army. Large, one-story stone building.
19. Sergeants (non-commissioned officers) Club. Two-story stone building.
20. "Kannel" Theatre. Wooden building, partly one story and partly two story.
21. "Jedeikin" Lumber Factory, owned by a Jew of the same name.
22. Jewish Synagogue.
23. Power Station, flax factory and flour mill. Large stone building, with tall smoke stack. *See attached map. See sketch #1, and sketch #2 at 1:10 PM. The station is on the map.*
24. Distillery, one of the few in Estonia. When the Soviets left Estonia in 1941 they dumped 425 thousand liters of alcohol in the lake.
25. Public elementary school which had been a former teachers' training school. This was a two-story stone building.
26. Public elementary school. Two-story wooden building.
27. Fire Department. Small brick building, one story. *cross on top.*
28. Elementary school. Two-story; first story stone and second story wood.
29. Public Bath House. One-story, stone building.
30. Public Bath House.
31. Public Bath House.
32. Leather factory owned by M. Goldberg.
33. Railway Station.
34. Lutheran cemetery.

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35. Orthodox Cemetery.
 36. Jewish Cemetery.
 37. Moslem Cemetery.
 38. New Estonian Bank. A large building, three stories high on Tartu Street and two stories high on Juri Street. In addition to the bank there was a drug store and one other store on the ground floor on the Juri Street side.
 39. Officers living quarters. Two-story, wooden building.
 40. Two-story stone building having a drug store on the first floor and a girls' home economics school on the second floor.
3. The Seventh Regiment of the Estonian Army was headquartered south of Voru until the German occupation during which time the camp was not in use. I have located the following landmarks on the attached sketch (See Sketch #2, available on loan from the CIA Map Library), the numbers below corresponding to those on the sketch:
1. Barracks for the enlisted men. Three-story stone buildings, erected in 1930. Each building housed one battalion (1200 men).
 2. Headquarters of the Seventh Regiment.
 3. Pump House
 4. Scale House
 5. Ammunition Dumps for the Seventh Regiment.
 6. Shed for various pieces of equipment. This was burned down during the first Soviet occupation.
 7. Stable for horses.
 8. Shed for wagons, etc.
 9. Blacksmith shop
 10. Ammunition dumps. Twenty-three concrete buildings, each 10-12 yards long, eight yards wide and three to four yards above ground. All ammunition for the Second Estonian Division was stored here. These were all blown up when the Soviets retreated in 1941.

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